

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 SMS-01
/110 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:CF
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED
-----113060 252119Z /45

P 252029Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 25 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THAT "POSSIBLE
WHITE HOUSE MOVE TO CIRCUMVENT TREATY PROCESS TO WIN RATI-
FICATION OF ANY FUTURE AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION ON
STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION ALREADY IS DRAWING FIRE OF
PROMINENT SENATORS." UPI SAID IN "BRIEF BUT SPIRITED DIS-
CUSSION IN SENATE LATE THURSDAY, GROUP OF MEMBERS WHO
SUPPORT SALT PROPOSALS WARNED ADMINISTRATION THAT SUBMIT-

TING AGREEMENT IN ANY OTHER FORM THAN TREATY -- WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS VOTE -- WOULD BE SERIOUS MISTAKE., DISPUTE SURFACED, UPI SAID, AFTER LONG LEGISLATIVE DAY IN SENATE, WHEN SENATORS CHARLES MATHIAS AND ALAN CRANSTON MADE PUBLIC "DISMAY THAT HAS HERETOFORE BEEN RAISED ONLY IN PRIVATE STRATEGY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ADMINISTRATION AND KEY SENATORS." UPI SAID THEIR REMARKS STEMMED FROM ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE'S STATEMENT WEDNESDAY THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS CONSIDERING "POSSIBLE OPTION" OF BRINGING PACT TO CONGRESS IN FORM OF AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT INSTEAD OF TREATY. WARNKE SAID IN HIS OPINION "IT WOULDN'T MAKE AN AWFUL LOT OF DIFFERENCE" WHETHER PACT WAS AN AGREEMENT OR TREATY, UPI REPORTED. "BUT SENATE CLOSELY GUARDS ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ADVICE AND CONSENT POWERS, AND ITS REACTION WAS BLUNT AND QUICK," UPI ADDED. MATHIAS, IN STATEMENT ENDORSED BY FIVE OTHER SENATORS, CALLED PLAN SERIOUS MISTAKE." CRANSTON CALLED IT "GREAT ERROR" AND PREDICTED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD MEAN PACT WAS "FOREORDAINED TO DEFEAT." CRANSTON SAID SENATOR FRANK CHURCH CALLED WHITE HOUSE TO "REITERATE OUR FEELING."

2. DAN SOUTHERLAND OF CHIRSTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID "FACT THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS GIVING CONSIDERATION, HOWEVER SLIGHT, TO AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT RATHER THAN TREATY APPEARS TO BE PART OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENSIFIED DRIVE TO GET HIS WAY -- SOME SAY TO 'GET TOUGH' -- UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH CONGRESS. BUT IT ALSO SEEMS TO REFLECT VULNERABILITY ADMINISTRATION FEELS ON SALT ISSUE." SOUTHERLAND REPORTED THAT "SENATE SOURCES SAY THAT IF NEW TREATY WERE PRESENTED TO SENATE TODAY IT WOULD STAND NO CHANCE OF RATIFICATION.... 'I'D BE ASTONISHED IF YOU COULD GET 40 VOTES FOR SALT TREATY,' SAID ONE WELL-PLACED SOURCE IN SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.... SAME SOURCE PREDICTED, HOWEVER, THAT IF ADMINISTRATION TRIED TO CIRCUMVENT RATIFICATION PROCESS THROUGH AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT IT WOULD COME UNDER STRONG ATTACK IN SENATE FROM COALITION OF ANTI-SOVIET 'HARD LINERS' AND LIBERALS CONCERNED WITH CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF QUESTION. SENATE LIBERALS HAVE COMPLAINED, EVER SINCE DAYS OF VIETNAM WAR, THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS."

3. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH REPORTING THAT KEY SENATORS WARNED PRESIDENT CARTER YESTERDAY THAT SENDING SALT AGREEMENT TO SENATE IN ANYTHING BUT TREATY FORM WOULD GUARANTEE ITS DEFEAT. SENATOR MATHIAS, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT FORM PROBABLY WOULD BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND WOULD BE SEEN BY SENATE AS "AN EFFORT TO CIRCUMVENT CLEAR AND ESTABLISHED

PROCEDURES WHICH LIE AT VERY ROOT OF OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM." MATHIAS SAID "TREATY IS CONSTITUTIONAL ROUTE. IT IS ONLY WAY TO GO." AP SAID SENATOR DICK CLARK JOINED CRANSTON AND MATHIAS IN A COLLOQUY AT END OF YESTERDAY'S SENATE SESSION. CRANSTON SAID IT MIGHT BE TEMPTING TO CONSIDER SENDING AT LEAST SOME PARTS OF ARMS TREATY AS AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT REQUIRING ONLY MAJORITY VOTE RATHER THAN AS TREATY NEEDING TWO-THIRDS VOTE FOR APPROVAL. MATHIAS SAID HIS STATEMENTS WERE ENDORSED BY SENATORS JAMES PEARSON, GARY HART, MARK HATFIELD, EDWARD BROOKE AND BOB PACKWOOD.

4. UPI REPORTED THAT SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER ROBERT

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BYRD FRIDAY JOINED OPPOSITION TO ANY MOVE BY WHITE HOUSE TO SUBMIT SALT AGREEMENT IN SOME FORM OTHER THAN TREATY. BYRD, UPI SAID, WARNED ADMINISTRATION AGAINST ATTEMPTING AN "END RUN AROUND SENATE." IN SENATE SPEECH, BYRD SAID HE HAD HEARD ONLY "RUMORS" OF WHITE HOUSE PLANS, BUT IF ADMINISTRATION DECIDED TO SUBMIT SALT PACT AS AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT, "AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE PRETTY DUBIOUS AND SO AM I ... ABOUT WHAT'S IN THAT PACT." BYRD SAID HE HAD WRITTEN PRESIDENT CARTER ON AUG. 15 TO PROTEST IDEA. THERE HAS BEEN NO WHITE HOUSE REPLY, HE SAID. "IF ADMINISTRATION IS NOT CONSIDERING THAT APPROACH, I THINK IT SHOULD SAY SO," BYRD DECLARED. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE216951
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMPOPE:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780349-0255
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780822/aaaaasbt.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a48755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1616849
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUGUST 25 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PARM, SOPN, US, UR
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a48755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014